

SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING 22 MAY 2013

REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29 APRIL 2013

Matters Arising

- Welcomed a comprehensive briefing note on the tender evaluation and approval process used for the joint procurement by Chorley and South Ribble Borough Councils for banking services

External Audit Opinion Plan 2012/13

- Received a report from the Council's external auditors Grant Thornton outlining their understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the Council; their proposed approach to the audit, and the results of interim audit work currently underway
- Reassured that the significant risks identified by the external auditors (fraudulent transactions and management over-ride of controls) were generic to all local authorities and no cases of these kinds had been identified within the council
- Acknowledged that the accuracy of financial forecasting would become ever more important given the ongoing economic situation and informed that the external auditors would be looking at savings proposals and plans in the medium term financial strategy

External Audit Certification Work Report 2011/12

- Received a report summarising the external auditors' overall assessment of the council's management arrangements for the certification of grant claims process
- All claims had been submitted by the council on time and certified within the relevant timescales
- One amendment had been made to the national non-domestic rates return increasing the amount payable to the national pool as the 2011/12 payment had been inadvertently omitted from the return

Internal Audit Plan 2013/14

- Received an explanation of the timescales allocated to certain areas of work and how particular areas of work were allocated to internal auditors
- Debated some proposed changes to the Key Performance Indicators for the Internal Audit Service in relation to annual rather than quarterly reporting to committee of the percentage of management actions implemented and management actions implemented on time
- Acknowledged that the indicators under debate were not a measure of the performance of the Internal Audit Service itself, and that annual reporting would reduce officer time by approximately one week, resulting in a consensus to approve the proposed changes
- Reassured by the 'two strikes' approach to non implementation of agreed management actions, with reporting to the Chief Executive and this committee
- Approved the Internal Audit work programme for 2013/14

Forward Plan

- Agreed the forward plan for 2013/14

I hereby commend the report to Council.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM O'HARE
CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE